Wisconsin eHealth Care Quality and Patient Safety Board
Board Meeting, January 23, 2006
Minutes

Members in attendance:
Betsy Abramson, Christopher Alban, Bevan Baker, Edward Barthell, Gary Bezucha, Gina Frank-Reece, Kevin Hayden, Ravi Kalla, Lois Murphy, Helene Nelson, Candice Owley, Debra Rislow, Peggy Smelser, Eric Stanchfield, John Toussaint, Frederic Wesbrook

Others in Attendance:
Janet Marchibroda, CEO of the eHealth Initiative; Susan Wood, Division of Public Health, DHFS; Julie Schultz, Office of the Secretary, DHFS; Theresa Wedekind, Office of the Commissioner of Insurance; Debbie Waite, Waite Association Consulting; Greg Simmons, MetaStar; Jay Gold, MetaStar; Tom Berg, Marshfield Clinic; Seth Foldy, Medical College of Wisconsin; John Hartman, Visionex; Debbie Rickelman, WHA; Doug Bingenheimer, DOA – DET; Ted Ohlswager, DHFS; Larry Hanrahan, DHFS; Judith Nugent, DHFS; Cathy Farnsworth, Marshfield Clinic; Kendra Jackson, Meriter; Donna Friedsam, UW-Madison; Stacia Jankowski, DHFS.

1. **Welcome and charge to the eHealth Board**

   Secretary Helene Nelson called the meeting to order and announced that the meeting would be broadcast live over the Internet.

   Secretary Nelson reviewed the Governor's charge in Executive Order 129 to the Board and emphasized that the goal is to improve the quality of health care and safety through widespread adoption and exchange of information from electronic health records. The Board is directed to develop an action plan by the end of this year for comprehensive statewide adoption of EHR technology within five years. She noted that while there are many assets in our state to draw upon this is an ambitious charge. The high quality of the board members offers great promise for success.

2. **Introductions**

   Each board member described their interests and expectations for service on the Board. Susan Wood was introduced by Secretary Nelson as chief of staff for the Board.

3. **The national landscape**

   Janet Marchibroda, CEO of the national eHealth Initiative (eHI), provided an in-depth slide presentation, *Improving Health Care Quality and Safety by Leveraging Health Info Technology.*

   The mission of the eHealth Initiative is to improve the quality and safety of health care. She provided an overview of what is happening nationally and indicated there is an enormous amount of energy from Congress and the Administration on this issue. The focus in the states will be on principles for health data sharing and value for purchasers and payers. Based on a recent survey conducted by eHI, the most difficult issues will be securing funding, developing a business model, engaging health plans and linking patient data. She also provided information about the characteristics of successful health information exchange initiatives and emerging guiding principles.

   Following the presentation, Secretary Nelson invited questions and comments by the Board to Ms. Marchibroda.

   Dr. Toussaint asked for more specific information about what other states hope to accomplish with their statewide initiatives. Ms. Marchibroda indicated that a number of states have decided to mobilize clinical data and discussed steps that groups are taking to get there—what do you already have to work with, what are key challenges, what are costs/values, which things won't be dead ends?

   Secretary Nelson indicated that the Governor has met with various hospitals. He wants to make sure care is delivered correctly all around the state and there is an ability to exchange information around the state.

   Dr. Toussaint indicated that if we're going to have one medical system that talks to each other, it's like solving world hunger. Dr. Barthell indicated that bigger health systems already have invested a lot in this.

   Ms. Abrahamson asked about border issues, conflict of insurance and patient consent and protection of client information if data was shared. Ms. Marchibroda indicated there is a group from the National Governors Association set up to provide funding to states to work on these issues and Secretary Nelson noted that one of the Board's focal points will be patient confidentiality.

   Ms. Rislow addressed the technology issues that are facing organizations and how to get agreement on language among the various organizations. Ms. Marchibroda stated that NLM is tackling this issue and doesn't feel they will have full operability even within three years. Mr. Stanchfield raised the issue of HIPAA. Ms. Marchibroda commented that this federal law is intended to enable appropriate health information exchange.

4. Overview of current health information initiatives in Wisconsin

Ms. Wood provided a high-level overview of state-specific health information initiatives that are underway in both the private and public sectors.

Secretary Nelson stated that the Governor would like the Board to do an inventory of what information is out there in the state.

Mr. Baker said it would be important to know what back-up systems there are for information in case of an emergency.

Dr. Barthell asked about redundancy of information that is currently out there and the need to diagnose what we already have.

Ms. Smelser stated that she would like to get more information about PHIN (the Public Health Information Network) in general.

5. 2006 priorities, products and schedule

Secretary Nelson reviewed the specific expectations for the Board in Governor's Executive Order #129.

Ms. Wood provided a proposed 2006 timeline for the Board, including plans for a total of four board meetings plus sponsorship of two "summit" meetings. The Department has made a commitment to the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation to hold two stakeholder meetings in 2006 to get advice about the statewide adoption of electronic health records and proposes that the Board sponsor these events. Staff also plans to conduct key informant interviews to provide baseline information for the Board. The plan assumes that working groups will be created to develop components of the action plan and that the plan will be ready for the Board to submit to Governor Doyle about December 1, 2006.

With this schedule the first draft of the action plan could be done by mid-summer. The final plan could be ready in November at the Board's final meeting.

Ms. Wood also described the grant opportunity for states offered by the National Governors Association to focus on privacy/security issues in the development of a statewide information exchange. Up to forty states will be funded. Applications are due March 1, 2006 so staff will be working on this in the short term.

Board members agreed with the proposed timetable with the exception of the timing of creating working groups. Dr. Barthell recommended that workgroups should be set up prior to the next Board meeting and strategies defined. Mr. Stanchfield agreed. The group agreed by consensus.

Secretary Nelson invited further discussion on the scope of work for the Board as a whole, and what the workgroups were going to do.

One recommendation was that added work should be done to define the Board's overall vision/values/goals. Ms. Frank Reece suggested that a vision statement be prepared for the Board. It was also suggested that the functions of the Board could be reformatted from the Executive Order to help the Board focus on its key tasks.

Dr. Toussaint asked, "What's the what?" that the state wishes to accomplish and what the Board can reasonably accomplish during its term. Secretary Nelson indicated that the Board is not going to prepare a detailed technology plan or statewide system. The Governor's Executive Order has assigned the Board the task of preparing a strategic action plan with practical steps the state can take to foster widespread adoption and exchange of information from electronic health records. The Board itself will need to develop an understanding of what are the effective actions that State government can take, in partnership with the private sector, towards that end.

Discussion was held on a number of issues related to the Board's responsibilities:

- Educating business leaders (purchasers, payers, others)
- What we have now, what works, what doesn't
- What is possible to accomplish? What are practical pieces to accomplish? What can we build on?
- Public health and related issues
- Patient privacy and protections
- Patient values
- Impact on rural/small groups
- Technology – what we want to deliver in terms of the electronic health record itself plus the "system" that surrounds it
- For patient/clinical care – deliverables include ease of use, quality and safety, practical guidelines
- Need for a continuing care record – minimum data set that is standard in Wisconsin
- Return-on-investment analysis
- Importance of using real-life examples in the action plan to illustrate key concepts

Mr. Stanchfield indicated that one task should be educating the business community on the benefits of the use of electronic health records and the exchange of health information and the impact this can have on employer costs for health care.

Dr. Wesbrook said that his interpretation of the Governor's charge is to improve the quality and safety of patient care, to determine what information can be shared electronically, where that information exists now, and develop practice guidelines.

Mr. Alban indicated it would be helpful to get a map of what's being done already and where we're going.

Mr. Hayden indicated it would be helpful to have something that shows where ehealth records are in the state.

Secretary Nelson thanked the Board for the discussion. She stated that staff will prepare a draft "charter" for the Board as suggested, a draft vision/values statement that could be used to guide the development of the Action Plan that the Governor has directed the Board to prepare, and ideas or options for working groups that the Board can consider at its next meeting. She asked whether some members of the Board would volunteer to review these drafts before they would be sent to the full Board for approval. Board members who indicated they were interested in helping with this are Kevin Hayden, Debra Rislow, Peg Smelser, Fred Wesbrook, Christopher Alban and Edward Barthell.

Ms. Wood discussed who will be part of the key informant interviews. She stated that the plan is to use the format developed by the eHealth Initiative. Possible key informant interviews will include RHIOS, health care leaders, business group leaders, academic and medical schools. Ms. Wood will share the list and the draft questions with the Board for review and comment.

Discussion was held on the timing of the next Board meeting and logistics for the upcoming Board meetings and whether the Board would rather meet in person or by teleconferences. Members indicated that Madison was a good location and that in-person meetings are preferred.

Agenda items for the March board meeting include review and approval of a proposed charter for the board, the goals and assumptions for the action plan, a report on key informant interviews, more detail on the Wisconsin initiatives that are building blocks for the Wisconsin plan, planning for the spring summit to be sponsored by the Board and an update on federal developments.

.Future meetings were set for
- March 14, 2006
- August 3, 2006
- November 14, 2006
- All at the Department of Health and Family Services, 1 West Wilson Street, Room 751.

Secretary Nelson thanked the Board members for their participation and wisdom.
The meeting adjourned at approximately 2:40 p.m.